THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, December 6, 1802.

AMIABLE FEMALE CHARACTER.

WHILST public characters defcend to the tomb amidft the tumult of public applaufe, and even notorious profligacy, if aſſociated with rank and talent, ſteals a ſort of illuſtrious infamy, it is much to be lamented that private worth—that excellent conduct in obſcure life, ſinks to the grave unnoticed and unrecorded. The hero, or the orator, few can imitate; but the exemplary pattern

" In the ſmall circle, the domeſtic ſphere,"

all may contemplate with advantage. In this view, a few particulars relative to Mrs. Coltman, wife of Mr. Coltman, late of the Newworks, Leiceſter, who departed this life on the 9th of October, 1802, may not be altogether uſeleſs; for, though ſhe poſſeſſed none of thoſe dazzling qualities which command public admiration, ſhe was rich in the excellencies which ſecure private eſteem.

The early morning of her life was paſſed amidſt the tranquil ſcenes, the beneficial and chearful occupations of the country, under the eye of a judicious father, and an exemplary mother.—Here were nurtured a ſweetneſs of diſpoſition, and an activity of mind, which ſecured enjoyment to youth, and irradiated the lateſt limit of extreme old age. She had early to contend with trials of a very painful nature;—theſe called forth an uncommon fortitude, which was ever after the ornament of her character; yet ſhe poſſeſſed all that genuine feeling which prompts to exertion and aid, and mingled the moſt ſincere tenderneſs with the moſt unſhaken firmneſs. Her mind had never been weakened by romantic reading, or ſcenic repreſentations of fictitious woe.—The real ſufferer was the object of her pity, and the wretched

family, in undecorated diſtreſs, engaged her ſympathy, and exerciſed her benevolence.

She was accuſtomed to early riſing from her youth, and was a pattern of activity, economy, and order. She inſpired her children with the tendereſt regard, and was not more the mother than the friend of her daughters. In the moſt important and neareſt relation, the wiſe man has ſweetly characteriſed her:—"If there be kindneſs, meekneſs, and comfort, in her tongue, then is not her huſband like other men; he getteth a help unto himſelf, and a pillar of reſt." Her's was that happy good ſenſe, which enables its poſſeſſor to make the beſt of every event. She had a benignity of mind ſeldom equalled, and the celebrated maxim of Epictetus, "Bear, and forbear," ſeemed the dictating ſpirit of her conduct. She encountered difficulties with firmneſs, and roſe ſuperior to them by perſevering patience. The obſervation of a friend, who well knew her, is appropriate and juſt—"She had no oſtentatious diſplay of greatneſs, but it reſided triumphant in her ſoul, and marked almoſt every action of her life." Excruciating pain had frequently ſhaken a delicate fabric, but ſhe bore all with unſhrinking reſignation: and her wants, even in the moſt trying illneſs, never made her forget thoſe of others. It was the opinion of different phyſicians, that the uncommon equanimity and patience of her ſpirit, tended to preſerve the vital principle, even when they had not the moſt diſtant hope of recovery.

She was a kind neighbour—a ſteady and judicious friend. Entirely free from the common petulance and miſanthropy of old age, ſhe took pleaſure in promoting the happineſs of youth, and preſerved a lively good humour to the laſt. At eighty, ſhe was frequently the firſt perſon riſen in the houſe. The New Teſtament, or ſome practical treatiſe, firſt engaged her attention, and, in a round of little beneficial occupations, of which working for the poor was one, ſhe was an example of cheerfulneſs, activity, and enjoyment, through the day. If ever ſhe expreſſed an anxious wiſh, it was, that ſhe might not outlive her uſefulneſs: this requeſt was granted.

As ſhe was ſitting with her family at tea on the Thurſday, ſhe was ſeized with a ſlight paralytic affection. Eager to diſſipate the fears of thoſe about her, ſhe aſſured them with the moſt perfect cheerfulneſs, that ſhe did not feel ill. Finding that ſhe could not walk with her uſual agility, ſhe was aſſiſted in getting up ſtairs, and then ſaid, without the leaſt tremor, "I think I have had a paralytic ſtroke." On being aſked by a near relative ſhortly after, how ſhe did, ſhe replied, in a lively and triumphant manner, "My dear, I am not in Heaven, but I hope I ſoon ſhall be." Friday morning a ſecond violent ſtroke produced the moſt alarming ſymptoms. Though ſtill able to ſpeak, not a complaint eſcaped her; for her lips ſeemed not formed to murmur.

mur. She ſaid ſhe was in good hands, and calmly entered on the everlaſting reſt as the Saturday cloſed.

A life, protracted to eighty-ſix years, proves the advantage o temperance, regularity, and activity; but the uncommon vigour ſhe enjoyed, and the conſtant happineſs ſhe communicated, diſpoſed thoſe who knew and loved her, to forget that ſhe was old; and that it was meet the ſhock of corn ſhould be gathered in its ſeaſon. Diſtruſting herſelf, ſhe fled for refuge to Him who is "mighty to ſave:" her's were the hopes of the goſpel, and ſhe died the death of the Chriſtian.—Till the infidel has ſomething to offer the dying, and the bereaved, more glorious than a hope full of immortality, let him hide his gloomy ſurmiſes in his own dark boſom. The ſufferer ſtands in need of a God—a Heaven.

DESCRIPTION *of the* IBIS MUMMIES.

[From Kendal's Tranſlation of Denon's Travels in Upper and Lower Egypt.]

THE caverns of Sſakkarah had been opened, and a ſepulchral chamber, containing more than five hundred ibis mummies, diſcovered. Two of theſe were given to M. Denon, and he could not reſiſt the deſire of opening one.

The pots which incloſe theſe birds, and ſerve for their ſarcophaguſes, are of a red and common earth, of from fourteen to eighteen inches in height; their form bears a general reſemblance to a ſugar-pot; they are found in great numbers at Sſakkarah, in ſubterranean chambers; theſe chambers are ſo dry, that the pots on being taken out appear ſtill new, and that their antiquity might be doubted if the art of embalment were not loſt, and if the bird whoſe mummy is found had not left the ſoil of Egypt: it is ſaid that a few are ſometimes ſeen in the Lake Menzaleh, between Damiatt and the ruins of Peluſium; but M. Denon, in ſpite of reiterated inquiries of native ſportſmen, and of thoſe who made reſearches in natural hiſtory their peculiar object, found no perſon who could aſſure him of his having ſeen one.

On proceeding to open the pot and the mummy it contained, the ſolder which faſtened its lid, and which was made only of a kind of chalk, gave way with a ſlight effort. The enſwathed bird was looſe in the pot; and this explains the ſtate of pulverization in which mummies of this kind arrive in Europe, after the juſtlings of their journey. At firſt ſight, the mummy of an ibis appears like that of a new born infant: a fine cloth, of a biſter-tint, and which appears to have been ſoaked in an aromatic fluid, after being croſſed over the lower part of the body, covers

the whole of one ſide; under this envelope, a double thread binds the mummy, horizontally and tranſverſally, in the manner of a net, in all its parts; under this thread, the ſecond envelope reſembles the firſt, ſwathing the body in a ſimilar manner: below this are little bandages of an inch and a half in width, which, like the thread, are wound round the bird in every direction. The bandages removed, a third ſwathing is diſcovered, under which are little pellets of cloth, adapted to the inferior part, and ſo placed as to maintain the form of the mummy, and increaſe its conſiſtence; all this taken away, the mummy aſſumes the figure of a pupa or chryſalis, ready to expand its wings; this laſt envelope, much coarſer than the former, and dipped in a thicker balm, had received a colour of a deeper brown, and a ſubſtance leſs pliant; the form is here ſomewhat viſible: this envelope was opened; but, as if the material employed had been applied in too hot a ſtate, or that it had had ſome corroſive quality, it had carbonized every thing to which it had penetrated, and the bones fell into a powder as ſoon as they were uncovered, or as ſoon as it was attempted to detach them from their adherence to the cloth, or to the embalming matter.

The wiſh to render the ſearch complete, induced M. Denon to open his ſecond pot; in this was found a larger, compacter, and heavier, mummy: there was this difference in the envelopes of the ſecond, that, inſtead of a ſwathing for its innermoſt covering, it had bands of two colours, alternately croſſed by threads ſymmetrically enveloping the little bundle as before. M. Denon alſo obſerved a little cockade, faſtened on the ſide, near the top, and which at firſt appeared a fanciful ornament, but which was found to be a little bandage, wound up, and faſtened to the bundle by the gluten of the balm: he has ſince had opportunities of obſerving that it was in this manner the embalmer, perhaps after finiſhing his operation, ſcrupulouſly enveloped and attached to the general maſs the little fragments of feathers which had been ſeparated under his hands, ſo that no part of the animal ſhould be loſt. This minute care manifeſts that the Egyptians joined religious ideas with their embalments; and it helped to explain to him, in the ſequel, the meaning of the little mummies that he found in company with embalmed human bodies which he opened.

All the other envelopes of the ſecond mummy were the ſame as thoſe of the firſt; the laſt did not adhere, and under it was found a ſkeleton, without a fragment of any one of the moſt delicate bones. The feathers of the head and beard were preſerved; it might be ſeen, notwithſtanding the alteration of their colour by the balſamic liquor, that the upper part had been white, and the extremities of a red brown; the tail ſhort, with feathers of little ſtrength.

By

By means of the two-fold developements which M. Denon and his companions had performed, they were enabled to judge of the method of effecting this ſpecies of embalment. The operator took away all the interior parts of the bird, boiled them in the balm, and replaced them; after this, he doubled the wing againſt the body of the bird, the length of the wings making the whole height of the mummy; he bent back his legs, laying along the ſides of the breaſt, put the head between the thighs, in ſuch a manner that the extremity of the beak reached that of the tail; and, holding the bird, thus truſſed, by the inferior end, he fitted the firſt cloth, fully ſaturated with the balſamic and glutinous matter, finiſhing the envelopement at the lower part, and applying two pellets to give conſiſtence to the place which contained nothing but the tail, the wing-feathers, and the beak; after this he applied the greater cloth, of a finer weft, dipped in a thinner fluid, five inches wide, and three feet long; this he firſt wrapped from the top to the bottom, fixing it by winding a thread irregularly round; faſtening this underneath, he adapted bandages three inches in width, the extremities of which were kept together by the gluten of a black and thick matter.

There is a very viſible variety in the degree of care which was beſtowed upon the embalments of theſe birds; the earthern pot alone is the ſame for all. This inequality in the formation of mummies found in the ſame cave, proves that there was for theſe, as for thoſe of men, a variety of price; by conſequence that it was done at the expence of private perſons; and thus that it is to be preſumed that the embalmed birds have not been nouriſhed in common at certain temples or at certain colleges, in gratitude for the ſervices rendered by the ſpecies. If it had been with theſe birds as with the god Apis, ſingle individuals would have ſufficed, and theſe pots would not be found by thouſands. It ought then to be believed, that the ibis, the deſtroyer of all reptiles, muſt have been held in veneration in a country where they abound at a certain ſeaſon of the year: and, that like the ſtork in Holland, this bird being domeſticated by the attentions paid him, each houſe had its own faithful attendant, to whom after its death the maſter, according to his means, gave the honours of ſepulture. Herodotus tells us that he was informed, that in the earlieſt times remembered, they were numerous; that in the proportion as the moraſſes of upper Egypt became dry, they had come down to the lower, to follow their prey; aſſertions that agree very well with what is reported by thoſe travellers who have ſeen them occaſionally on the Lake Menzaleh. If the ſpecies had diminiſhed in the days of Herodotus, it is not aſtoniſhing that in our's its exiſtence ſhould have become problematical. Herodotus relates, that the prieſts of Heliopolis informed him that, on the retreat of the waters of the Nile, there arrived, by the way of the valleys which ſeparate Egypt from Arabia, clouds

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of winged ſerpents; and the ibis met theſe ſerpents and devoured them; he adds that he had never ſeen the winged ſerpents, but that he had gone into the valleys, and found multitudes of the ſkeletons of theſe monſters. With deference to the father of hiſtory, the ibis had no need of the creation of Arabian dragons to render it intereſting to Egypt which herſelf produces ſo many miſchievous reptiles; but the venerable Herodotus was a Greek, and he loved the marvellous.

INTERESTING TRIAL.

COURT of KING's BENCH.

OFFER OF A BRIBE.

THE KING, AT THE PROSECUTION OF THE RIGHT HON. HENRY ADDINGTON, *v.* PHILIP HAMLYN.

THE defendant had ſuffered judgment to go againſt him by default, and was this day brought up to receive the ſentence of the court.

The information was firſt read upon which he had been convicted. It ſet forth, that the Right Hon. Henry Addington was, on the 20th of October, 1801 and previous thereto, one of the lords commiſſioners of the exchequer, and firſt lord of the treaſury; that he was alſo one of his majeſty's privy council, and poſſeſſed of high offices of great truſt and confidence in his majeſty's government; that the defendant well knowing the ſame, and ſeeking, and wickedly intending, to corrupt the ſaid Henry Addington, and induce him to proſtitute and betray the truſts and duties of his high ſituation, did, on the 20th of October, in the 41ſt year of the reign of his preſent majeſty (1801), ſend, or cauſe to be ſent, to the ſaid Henry Addington, a letter, to the following tenor and effect:—

" SIR, *Plymouth, October* 20.

" The place of land-ſurveyor of this town has this day become vacant by the death of Mr. Andrew Hill. If you can procure that place for me and my uſe, *I ſhall give you the ſum of* 2000*l.* I ſhall further give you a bond to keep the matter ſecret, if it may be neceſſary. Your anſwer will greatly oblige me."

The information having been read, different affidavits were produced on the part of the defendant, in mitigation of puniſhment.

His own affidavit ſtated, that he felt very great contrition for the impropriety he had been guilty of; that he is by trade a

tinman, that he had no partner or, any perſon ſufficiently ſkilled in his buſineſs to manage it during his impriſonment, and that he therefore found that a long impriſonment would utterly ruin him; that he is forty years of age, has a wife and family entirely depending on his own induſtry; that he has always been a loyal and peaceable ſubject, and did moſt ſincerely purpoſe, if he had been appointed to the place, to have diſcharged all the cares of it with the utmoſt care and diligence. Affidavits were alſo produced of Thomas Woolcot, Eſq. George Herbert, Eſq, of two clergymen, and ſeveral moſt reſpectable inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood of Plymouth: they all agreed in repreſenting the defendant as an honeſt and induſtrious tradeſman, a loyal, peaceable, and dutiful ſubject, and that except the writing of the letter in queſtion they never knew him guilty of any miſconduct, inconſiſtent with the character they gave him.

The attorney-general then addreſſed their lordſhips, on the part of the crown, to the following effect:—

My lords, by ſuffering judgment to go againſt him by default, the defendant has in fact confeſſed the crime he has been charged with, namely, an attempt to bribe one of his majeſty's miniſters. Had the miniſter acceded to ſuch a propoſal, it would have been not only a moſt ſcandalous and diſgraceful breach of his duty, and of the truſt repoſed in him, but it would have been an act amounting to a high crime or miſdemeanour.—The act of ſoliciting the commiſſion of ſuch a crime then was properly tried by a criminal information, upon which the defendant has been convicted, and now ſtands for judgment.

My lords, in the annals of our hiſtory there never was a time when the characters of men raiſed to high ſituations were leſs liable to ſuſpicions of ſo degrading a nature than at preſent. Whatever we may read of as having happened in former times or in other countries will not in the leaſt apply to the actual ſituation of things at the preſent day. Not only miniſters, but every public character, all men who ſtand high in the public eye, muſt be ſuppoſed abſolutely incapable of the baſeneſs and meanneſs of betraying their truſt for the ſordid conſideration of a bribe. There is no occaſion then for any particular panegyric on the virtues of Mr. Addington on this occaſion; it is enough to ſay, he juſtly claims his full ſhare of that fair fame and exalted reputation which every one, who aſpires to the confidence of his ſovereign and the nation, muſt be ſuppoſed to poſſeſs. Was he only to conſult his private feelings, he would be juſtified in treating the letter with the utmoſt contempt, and in taking no farther notice of it, than merely flinging it into the fire; but when he conſidered, that it was not a mere private inſult to himſelf as a gentleman, but that it was a barefaced, criminal, though moſt abſurd attempt to induce a miniſter, to betray

tray his truſt and his duty, he very properly ſubmitted it to the determination of the court. As to the affidavits (continued the attorney-general) which have been read in ſupport of this defendant's general character, I muſt confeſs that they are ſuch as in ſome degree to excite our compaſſion for the man, but what impreſſion they ſhould make in this caſe, I am content to ſubmit to your lordſhip's temperate and impartial judgment.

Mr Erſkine roſe on the part of the defendant, and ſaid, he moſt fully coincided with the attorney general, in the obſervations which he had made reſpecting the public characters of the preſent time in this country; he believed they were, all of them, infinitely ſuperior to ſuch baſe motives of action, as the defendant expected Mr. Addington would be influenced by; the defendant, indeed, ought to feel much obliged to the attorney general, for the mildneſs and generoſity of his obſervations upon a conduct ſo criminal and inexcuſeable as his client's had been; the defendant, who is a tinman, having lived under the ſound of his *own hammer*, ſeemed to think that every thing was ſettled *under the hammer*; but to ſpeak ſeriouſly, he could only ſay in mitigation, that his fault proceeded from the groſſeſt ignorance; that as ſoon as he was informed he had done a very wrong thing, he wrote another letter, expreſſing the greateſt contrition, and that at preſent he has produced many affidavits to his character, far ſuperior to thoſe affidavits which are uſually obtained in ſimilar caſes. If indeed this letter had been addreſſed to perſons in an inferior degree of truſt, it would have been infinitely more dangerous, and on that account perhaps more criminal; but when addreſſed to a man in Mr. Addington's high ſtation, the man deſerves ſome pity for the groſſneſs of his ignorance; and the affidavits of his good general character become entitled to ſome weight.

The defendant was ordered to be remanded till the laſt day of the term.

Mr. Erſkine then ſaid, that to mark the ſimplicity and ignorance of the man, he ſhould relate the following ſtory:

When the information and ſubpœna went down againſt him, and he ſaw the red ſeal of the court, he was ſure it was his patent for the place, and was quite overjoyed.

[An immoderate burſt of laughter followed this recital.]

KING's BENCH, NOVEMBER 26.

J. KELSON, J. HOW, and four other perſons, were brought up by habeas corpus, in order to their being bailed. Theſe perſons were all journeymen in the cloth manufactory, reſiding in and near Trowbridge, in Wiltſhire, and had been committed under the act of the 37th of the king, c. 123, for having adminiſtered

niſtered unlawful oaths to two perſons of the names of Bailey and Simms.

The act under which theſe perſons were committed, was paſſed ſhortly after the mutiny at the Nore; and by its enactments, it was made felony, without benefit of clergy, to adminiſter oaths to any perſon, to keep ſecret any unlawful combination, or to obey the commands of any unlawful chief—or not to betray any unlawful ſecret, &c.—Some of the firſt clauſes of the act relate merely to treaſonable and ſeditious combinations, and others of the latter clauſes having a more general tendency, and in *words* embracing all unlawful combinations and oaths for ſuch purpoſes whatever. The perſons brought up ſtood accuſed of adminiſtering oaths, by which they bound the perſon who took them "to obey a committee of the journeymen of the cloth trade, and that they ſhould not divulge the ſecret of that committee—that they ſhould not do harm to any journeyman ſheerman, and for other like purpoſes." Theſe facts were ſtated on the oaths of two perſons of the names of Bailey and Simms, who alſo added, that ſuch as would not take the oaths were excluded from work. There were other affidavits on behalf of the priſoners, which denied the facts, or explained them; but the principal and important point in this buſineſs turned upon the conſtruction of the act itſelf.

Mr. Gibbs, in ſupport of their commitment, argued, that they fell under the expreſs words of the act, by which it was made capital to adminiſter oaths for the purpoſe of obeying any unlawful combination, or keeping any unlawful ſecrets, and that the operation of the act was by no means reſtricted to treaſonable or ſeditious combinations or oaths, but had a general operation.

Mr. Erſkine and Mr. Burrows, on the contrary, contended, that from the preamble of the act, it appeared, that it had in view ſeditious combinations and meetings, and the oaths adminiſtered in furtherance of ſuch purpoſes, and that its ſpirit by no means extended to the preſent caſe. The legiſlature could never mean to extend it to ſuch combinations as the preſent, otherwiſe this monſtrous abſurdity would reſult from it—that it would be felony to combine and take an oath to do a particular thing, which, when actually done, would only amount to a miſdemeanour. Thus, as for inſtance, the meeting and combining to carry any particular point in any branch of manufacture, and the adminiſtering of oaths for mutual aſſiſtance, would, under this act, if that conſtruction were allowed, be a felony; but the actual *doing* of the thing would only be a miſdemeanour. Reaſoning from the ſpirit of the act, he inſiſted, the preſent caſe did not fall within its proviſions, although he admitted that the *words* "preſſed ſorely upon him."

Lord Ellenborough ſaid, if he could reaſonably doubt that the caſe before the court did not fall within the proviſions of the

act, he would gladly admit the defendants to bail. For it was undoubtedly the privilege of that court, and which they could not relinquish without relinquishing one of the most beneficial rights for the advantage of the public, to admit to bail in all cases according to their discretion. But he could not bring himself to doubt that the prisoners were rightly brought within the provisions of the act of parliament in question. It was certainly true that the act, in its main provisions, was levelled against the oaths of treasonable and seditious meetings, and in its first clauses, by the word "such," it clearly had relation to the preamble, which stated those sort of meetings. It afterwards, however, in its subsequent clauses, became more general, and dropped the word of reference, and he saw nothing in the words of the act to contract its meaning from extending to all associations not lawfully constituted. He could only get at the sense of the legislature from the words which themselves had used to convey their meaning, and certainly the words of the act did not restrain it within the limits contended for by Mr. Erskine. After the word "such" had restrained it to seditious meetings, in the previous clauses, by leaving out that word it took a new station; and then it enacted it to be a felony to administer an oath "to obey the commands of a committee not lawfully constituted, or to obey any leader for illegal purposes, or not to give evidence against any associate, or not to betray or reveal any oath or purpose of such committee." These enactments were general.—Then see what was the oath administered by the parties before the court, as appeared from the affidavits of Bailey and Simms, and from which it clearly appeared that there was an unlawful combination amongst these workmen. The oath was to be true to the journeyman shearmen, not to do them any harm, not to reveal any secrets of the committee.—This appeared to him to be a case precisely within the meaning of the act of parliament. If, however, he was wrong in his opinion, the parties would not be concluded by it. If the act ought to receive a narrower construction the defendants might argue it in arrest of judgment. At present he thought the *corpus delicti* proved, and that the prisoners were not entitled to be bailed.

The other judges concurring, the prisoners were remanded.

Account of Thomas Williams Malkin, a Child of extraordinary Attainments, who lately died at Hackney.

[From the Monthly Magazine.]

IN a former obituary we had occasion to notice the death of Thomas Williams Malkin, at the early age of six years and nine months. The bare mention of such an event would, in an ordinary

ordinary caſe, be deemed ſufficient: but we cannot paſs over a circumſtance which equally arreſts the attention of the moraliſt and the ſympathy of the philanthrophiſt, without obſerving how ſuddenly and unexpectedly the brighteſt proſpects vaniſh, which depend on the precarious tenure of human life, however bright and promiſing the dawn of intellect—however encouraging the appearance of corporeal ſtability. With reſpect to the uncommon child whoſe early fate we have to lament, the extent of his attainments may excite ſurprize, and poſſibly in ſome minds doubt. Yet we have well authenticated accounts of juvenile proficiency; and in the preſent inſtance there are many and moſt reſpectable witneſſes to atteſt, that amiable diſpoſitions and ſuperior talents were never united in a more diſtinguiſhed manner, than in the ſubject of this biographical ſketch. His knowledge of the Engliſh language was correct and copious; and his expreſſion, whether in ſpeaking or writing, remarkable as well for fertility as ſelection. In the Latin he had proceeded ſo far, as to read with eaſe the more popular parts of Cicero's works. He had made ſome progreſs in French; and was ſo thorough a proficient in geography, as not only to be able, when queſtioned, to particularize the ſituation of the pricipal countries, cities, rivers, &c. but to draw maps from memory, with a neatneſs and accuracy which would ſcarcely be credited but by thoſe who are in poſſeſſion of the ſpecimens. Without any profeſſional aſſiſtance, he had acquired conſiderable execution in the art of drawing; and ſome of his copies from Raphael's heads, though wanting the preciſion of the academy ſtudents, evinced a fellow-feeling with the ſtile and ſentiment of the originals, which ſeemed likely, had he purſued it, to have ranked him with the more eminent profeſſors of the art.

But the moſt ſtriking feature in his character was a ſtrength of intellect, and a rapidity of comprehenſion on all ſubjects, independent of thoſe to which his ſtudies were immediately directed, which, increaſing with his growth, ſeemed likely in manhood to have placed more within his reach than it uſually falls to the lot of humanity to graſp at. He united, in a remarkable manner, the ſolid and the brilliant; for the powers of his memory kept pace with thoſe of his underſtanding and imagination; and the character of his mind may be comprized in theſe few but comprehenſive words—that he remembered whatever he had once known, and could do whatever he had once ſeen done.

But it may not be unintereſting to particularize the periods of his ſhort life, at which the leading traits of his character firſt preſented themſelves to obſervation. He was familiar with the alphabet long before he could ſpeak, not only as exhibited on counters, a practice very judicious, becauſe very enticing to

children, but as expreſſed in books, to which, from ſeeing them conſtantly about him, he ſhewed a very early partiality. At the age of three years, on his birth-day, he wrote his firſt letter to his mother; and though it contained nothing but ſhort expreſſions of affection, he ſoon afterwards began to write in a ſtyle and on ſubjects to which childhood in general is a total ſtranger: and this practice of writing his ſentiments on all ſubjects he perſevered in with a continually increaſing expanſion and improvement, both as to matter and manner, which we regret that our limits will not allow us to authenticate by ſpecimens. At the time of which we are ſpeaking, three years old, he could not only read and ſpell with unfailing accuracy, but knew the Greek characters, and would have attempted the language, had not the caution of his parents, in this inſtance, diſcouraged the forwardneſs of his inclination. When he was five, he had made conſiderable advances in Latin, as well as in all the other ſtudies which he purſued ſo ſucceſsfully for nearly two years longer. His ſtudy of Latin, in particular, was far removed from that mechanical routine, by which ſcholars of more advanced age too frequently proceed. His compariſon of the idiom and conſtruction with thoſe of his own and the French languages, his acuteneſs in tracing the etymology and detecting the component parts of words, hunting them through Engliſh and French, and enquiring the forms they aſſumed in Greek and Italian, with which he was unacquainted, proved him to have poſſeſſed a mind peculiarly calculated for philological inquiries. Nor was his attention confined to words: he never paſſed over any paſſage, the ſtyle or ſubject of which was obſcure or difficult, without ſuch an explanation as ſatisfied his doubts: nor did he ever ſuffer errors of the preſs, even the trifling ones of punctuation, to eſcape, without detecting and correcting them with a pencil he kept for the purpoſe. Notwithſtanding theſe ſtudious inclinations, he was a child of manly corporeal ſtructure, of unuſual livelineſs and activity. He was by no means grave in his diſpoſition, except in the purſuit of knowledge, from which, however, active ſports were generally ſucceſsful in detaching him: but the bane of all improvement, both of mind and body, indolence and the habit of lounging, were totally excluded from the catalogue of his pleaſures.

But as mere deſcription, unaſſiſted by anecdote, ſeldom conveys a lively and accurate idea of character; it will not, we hope, be thought impertinent to mention an obſervation or two, which may ſerve to illuſtrate the turn of his mind. On being told by a lady that ſhe would ſend for him the following day, when he ſhould draw as much as he pleaſed, he ſaid, "I wiſh to-morrow would come directly." After a ſhort pauſe, he added, "Where can to-morrow be now? It muſt be ſomewhere; for every thing is in ſome place." After a little further

ther reflection he said, " Perhaps to-morrow is in the sun." On meeting with the following aphorism, " Learning is not so much esteemed by wise men, as it is despised by fools;" he said, " I think the person who wrote that sentence was himself very foolish; for wise men esteem learning as much as possible, and fools cannot despise it more."

But the most singular instance in which he displayed fertility of imagination, united with the power of making every thing he met with in books and conversation his own, was his invention of an imaginary country called Allestone, of which he considered himself as king. It resembled Utopia, though he had never heard of that celebrated political romance. Of this country he wrote the history, and drew a most curious and ingenious map, giving names of his own invention to the principal cities, mountains, rivers, &c. And as learning was always the object of his highest respect, he endowed it most liberally with universities, to which he appointed professors by name, with numerous statutes and regulations, which would have reflected no disgrace on graver founders.

But though in the progress of his short life he was continually employed in laying up stores of knowledge, apparently for purposes which, the event proved, were never to be fulfilled; his last illness, which he supported with a patience and fortitude almost unexampled, amply evinced that he knew how to apply the treasures he had acquired to the solace and relief of his own mind, under circumstances of trial and suffering. He frequently beguiled the tedious hours of a sick bed with the recollection of what he had read, seen, or done, in the days of health: and little points of interest or information, which might have been supposed to have made a transient impression, were as much present to his mind as when they first engaged his attention. When a blister had been applied to his stomach, he observed, that from the appearance of it he supposed it corresponded with what he had seen called a cataplasm: and one day, when he was at the worst, he desired to know the meaning of the phrase " a still-born child," which he had once seen in an inscription on a tomb-stone, though he said the inscription itself was too poor to be worth remembering.

He often talked of the period of his recovery but never with impatience: and the triumph of mind over body continued so complete to the last, that he looked with interest and pleasure at his dissected maps within half an hour of his dissolution. Without entering with unnecessary minuteness into the nature of his disorder, it will be interesting to parents in general to be informed, that it afforded no confirmation of the common idea, that early expansion of intellect is unfavourable to the continuance of life. In consequence of the remarkable form of his head, which had been much admired, especially by artists, some

doubts

doubts had been ſuggeſted, that rendered it deſirable to have the head as well as body examined. From the reſult of this inveſtigation it appeared that the brain was unuſually large, and in the moſt perfect and healthy ſtate: that the diſorder, as it was uniformly conſidered to have been, was in the ſtomach, and had received all the relief that medical ſkill and the moſt anxious attention could afford: and that there was more than ordinary probability, from the vigour of his conſtitution, and the well-proportioned formation of his body, of his arriving at manhood, but for one of thoſe accidents in the ſyſtem, to which the old and young, the healthy and infirm, are equally expoſed.

His illneſs laſted from the firſt to the thirty-firſt of July; a period which, under ſuch ſevere ſufferings, none but a naturally ſtrong patient could have reached. On the morning of the thirty-firſt his medical friends, Dr. Liſter and Mr. Toulmin, ſaw him, and converſed with him, as he with them, after their uſual manner: and though they had given little or no encouragement for many days, they did not, on their laſt viſit, ſuch was the collected ſtate of his mind, and ſtrength of his ſpirits, apprehend his diſſolution to be ſo near. Soon after eleven o'clock he appeared much exhauſted; his breathing became very difficult, and his voice, which through his illneſs had been ſtrong and clear, began to falter. Still, however, he was firm and compoſed, without the ſlighteſt appearance of diſſatisfaction or alarm; he talked at intervals with the moſt perfect conſiſtency —with his accuſtomed powers, and uſual kindneſs for thoſe about him, till he could no longer utter a ſound. In a few minutes after he had ceaſed to articulate, and a little before twelve o'clock, he ſunk without a ſtruggle or a groan, exciting more admiration under circumſtances from which human nature is apt to revolt, than when in the full career of mental and bodily improvement.

Thus ends this ſhort hiſtory of a child, whoſe mind, though his years were few, ſeemed to have arrived at maturity. His powers of underſtanding, of memory, of imagination, were all remarkable; and the reaſonableneſs of his mind was ſuch, that he always yielded his own to the wiſhes of his friends, as much from conviction as compliance: his diſpoſitions were as generous and amiable, as his talents were brilliant and univerſal: and there can be little doubt, that in after-life, whether he had devoted the powers of his mind to the fine arts, to the belles-lettres, or to the ſeverer ſtudies, his ſucceſs would have been pre-eminent, and would have placed him, in the eſtimation of the wiſe, whatever might have been his external condition, high in the catalogue of worthy and uſeful members of ſociety.

Letter

Letter from Alexander, Emperor of Ruſſia, on the Subject of the Poor in Peterſburgh.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN WITTOSTOFF,

THE manner in which alms are diſtributed to the poor only ſerves to increaſe their number. The old man, broken down with years, does not find his repoſe aſſured; the youth, pining with miſery, is not reſtored to health; and the infant, who might become the ſupport of the ſtate, is not reſcued from death or vice. The idle and importunate beggar often ſeizes from the hand of beneficence what was deſtined for the father of a family, overwhelmed with deſpair, and groaning on his couch. Beneficence does not conſiſt in being moved by the often deceitful aſpect of diſtreſs, but in viſiting the unfortunate at their places of reſidence; in theſe abodes of affliction and tears, we muſt ſeek to mitigate their misfortunes by words of conſolation, by ſalutary advice, in ſhort, by every phyſical and moral means. In this true charity conſiſts. The poſſibility of accompliſhing this meritorious work is demonſtrated by the experience of ſeveral enlightened people, particularly of Hamburgh, where a ſociety of virtuous and peaceable citizens, without any view of perſonal intereſt, and without expectation of reward, have, for the conſolation of ſuffering humanity, for fifteen years acquitted themſelves of the ſacred duty of relieving their neighbour in the moſt uſeful and moſt efficacious manner.

Wiſhing to follow this example, I ſhall name a commiſſion, compoſed of three members, who will name unanimouſly a fourth; the four will name a fifth, and ſo on to nine; the nine members will name others to the number of ſeventeen. You will lay your plan before that commiſſion, in order that it may examine in what points and how it is to be carried into execution. To ſhew what ſtrong claims the victims of misfortune have on my heart, I take under my immediate and particular protection, not only the benevolent ſociety eſtabliſhing in this capital, but all thoſe, which, after its example, will undoubtedly be formed for the relief of our neighbour, in a nation ſo dear to me, on which nature has beſtowed ſo many treaſures, and which it has gifted with all the virtues, and particularly with an all-celeſtial generoſity. I entruſt to your eſpecial care the adminiſtration of this public charity, that you may attend to it, and communicate to me directly all the reports which relate to the inſtitution.

May 28, 1802.

THE NEAPOLITAN MOUNTEBANK.

By the late DR. MOORE.

A Poor fellow with a maſk on his face, and a guitar in his hand, aſſembled his Italian audience by the ſongs he ſung

to the muſic of his inſtrument, and by a thouſand merry ſtories he told them with infinite drollery; at length, when the company was moſt numerous, and at the higheſt pitch of good-humour, he ſuddenly pulled off his maſk, laid down his guitar, opened a little box which ſtood before him, and addreſſed the audience in the following words: "Ladies and gentlemen, there is a time for all things—we have had enough of jeſting; innocent mirth is excellent for the health of the body, but other things are requiſite for the health of the ſoul. I will now, with your permiſſion, my honorable maſters and miſtreſſes, entertain you with ſomething ſerious—ſomething for which all of you will have reaſon to bleſs me as long as you live." Here he ſhook out of a bag a great number of leaden crucifixes. "I am juſt come from the holy houſe of Loretto, my fellow-chriſtians," continued he, "on purpoſe to furniſh you with thoſe jewels, more precious than all the gold of Peru and all the pearls of the ocean. I have come, on your account, all the way from the habitation of the bleſſed virgin, to this thrice-renowned city of Naples, the riches and liberality of whoſe inhabitants are celebrated all over the globe. My generous Neapolitans, I do not wiſh to take the advantage of your pious and liberal diſpoſitions. I will not aſk for thoſe invaluable crucifixes (all of which, let me inform you, have touched the image of the bleſſed virgin), I will not, I ſay, aſk an ounce of gold, no, not even a crown of ſilver; my regard for you is ſuch that I ſhall let you have them for a penny a-piece."

On the POWER *of* GENIUS.

THE mind of a man of genius is the fertile and pleaſant field, pleaſant as Elyſium, and fertile as Tempe—it enjoys a perpetual ſpring. Of that ſpring, originals are the faireſt flowers; imitations are of quicker growth, but fainter bloom. Imitations are of two kinds, one of nature, one of authors; the firſt we call originals, and confine the term imitation to the ſecond. I ſhall not enter into the curious enquiry of what is, or is not, ſtrictly ſpeaking, original; content with what all muſt allow—that ſome compoſitions are more ſo than others; and the more they are ſo, I ſay, the better. Originals are, and ought to be, great favorites, for they are great benefactors: they extend the republic of letters, and add a new province to its dominion. Imitators only give us a ſort of duplicates of what we had, poſſibly much better before; increaſing the mere drug of books, while all that makes them valuable, knowledge and genius, are at a ſtand. The pen of an original writer, like Armida's wand, out of a barren waſte calls a blooming ſpring: out of that blooming ſpring an imitator is a tranſplanter of laurels, which ſometimes die on removal, always languiſh in a foreign ſoil.

AN ANECDOTE.

A Pragmatical young coxcomb, taking all occaſions to practiſe his impertinence upon old age, being once in company where the converſation turned upon the ſports of the field—a gentleman preſent was praiſing a favourite bitch that he had in pup, one of the company, a particular friend, requeſted one of the pups; in order that he might not forget it, the gentleman made a minute of it in his pocket-book, which the coxcomb obſerving, as was uſual with him on all occaſions, made ſome impertinent remark. The gentleman immediately took out his pocket-book again, and, addreſſing himſelf to the impertinent boy, ſaid, "Dear Sir, I had forgot to put you down for *a puppy*."

Nothing ſhews more the want of good ſenſe than the treating aged perſons with incivility, and it is moſt highly blameable to ridicule their unavoidable infirmities.

Anſwer to the Hint in Page 376 of our preſent Volume.

IT is ſometimes the caſe that a man does learn his faults by his enemies; but all virtues are very nearly allied to vices. By enemies, generoſity is termed profuſion; œconomy, avarice; fortitude, want of feeling; courage, raſhneſs; and expreſſing an opinion that there is danger, cowardice—when, in fact, without a conſciouſneſs of danger, no action can be termed courageous. So that though it is poſſible to take an hint from enemies, it is not right to give too much credit to their opinion.

Anſwer, by J. B. Chivers, Teacher of the Mathematics, at St. Auſtle, to the Rev. Mr. Molſdell's Queſtion, inſerted July 19.

LET z=the radius of the circumſcribing circle, and x=the ſide of the pentagon: let alſo a=.85065, &c. r=160 poles, the area, b=.7854, and m=1.5.388, &c. Then by page 343, Ward's Mathematician's Guide we get x:z::1:a, or z=ax, and as 1:m::x:mx=the perpendicular height of the pentagon; hence its area is $mx^2 \div 2$, and that of the circle $4z^2b$; the difference of theſe two by the queſtion is $4z^2b - \frac{mx^2}{2} = r$. Therefore x=10,3+, and z=8.7616+—ſo that the ſide of the pentagon is 10.3, the diameter of the circle 17.5232, the area of the pentagon 80.833164, &c. poles, and that of the circle is 241.07853 poles, which numbers being applied to the queſtion will be found to anſwer very nearly.

Anſwer, by J. Bloomfield, of Poole, to J. Turner's Anagram, inſerted October 11.

THE noiſy DAW is what you mean,
As in your anagram is ſeen.

☞ We have received the like anſwer from T. Adey, of Poole.

Anſwer, by W. Bickham, of Aſhburton, to W. Mann's Charade, inſerted October 11.

IT is a PEACE-MAKER I ſee,
That you, my friend, would wiſh to be.

*** We have received the like anſwer from Paul Ninnis, of St. Auſtell; Walter, of Devonſhire; J. Paſcal, of Briſtol; R. Berry, of Southmolton; H. Humphreys, J. Squance, W. Strong, and T. Whicker, of Exeter; and Juvenis, of Dorcheſter.

Anſwer, by W. Strong, of Exeter, to G. England's Enigma, inſerted October 25.

O May that God who guards fair Britain's iſle,
Still on its king, and all his ſubjects ſmile!
And make them happy in poſſeſſing peace,
And bleſs them all with plenty's fair increaſe.
And keep, O Father! now and evermore,
HUNGER and thirſt from every mortal's door.

†§† We have received the like anſwer from J. Squance, and T. Whicker, of Exeter; and Walter, of Devonſhire.

A CHARADE, *by Recluſe, of Awliſcombe.*

MY firſt doth ſhelter beaſts of prey;
My next proclaims the approach of day:
My whole's a bird I would conceal,
But you will ſoon the ſame reveal.

A REBUS, *by J. Bloomfield, of Poole.*

A General's name you firſt will find;
A name of Juno bring to mind;
A well-known beaſt pray now ſelect;
And laſt, ye gents. a town detect:
The initials then together frame,
A town in Yorkſhire you will name.

A REBUS, *by John Whittle, of Upway.*

A Well-known fruit, Sirs, pray unfold;
A lake infernal muſt be told;
A fable bird next make appear;
A well-known town in Dorſetſhire;
An ancient king of Athens find;
A name of Bacchus bring to mind;
A ſallad herb of much repute;
A goddeſs next without diſpute:
Join the initials right and true,
And my profeſſion you will view.

POETRY.

For the Weekly Entertainer.

The DOG's APOLOGY.

LONG us'd to feel a maſter's care
I fattened on delicious fare;
Charg'd never from his ſteps to ſtray,
I ſwore I'd ne'er his truſt betray.
One morn I'd ventur'd from his door,
Lur'd by a ſteed long known before.
Only intent to take the air,
The ſun was bright, the ſky was fair.
Prompted by blood I fought a mate,
Forgetting my precarious ſtate,
Or where my wand'ring footſteps led,
Thus prudence had forſook my head.
Did ev'ry fault of mortals find,
(Bleſt as they are with fairer mind)
Stripes ſuch as ſhould their guilt atone,
School-boys would ſob, and men would groan.
O! then receive your truant dog,
Kindly forbear my ſides to flog;
Let other dogs and horſes roam,
I'll be content to ſtay at home.
Tho' twenty years with wings had flown,
My maſter I ſhould ever own;
Ulyſſes' dog at ſuch a ſtate,
Welcom'd his maſter at the gate.
The ſeparation of a day
To Daſh has ſeem'd a century;
Check not his pride when he compares
His faith to that of twenty years.

A. T.

The RED-BREAST.

WHEN autumn haſtens to decay,
And chilling winter's near;
The birds that hail'd the ſprightly May,
Our fields no longer chear.

Yet ſtill, at each return of morn,
A red-breaſt loves to ſing;
Beſide my cot, from yonder thorn,
With all the grace of ſpring.

And oft I liſten, with delight,
To hear his plaintive lay,
Diſpel the laſt remains of night,
And uſher in the day.

For in a philoſophic ſtrain,
Congenial to my mind,
He ſings, nor heeds the gloomy ſcene;
To every change reſign'd.

With nature's voice inſtructing me,
If fortune ſmile or frown,
Too much elated ne'er to be,
Nor with deſpair caſt down.

Beſides, this little warbling bird
A gratitude diſplays,
Enough to challenge my regard,
And admiration raiſe.

For winters paſt, by hunger led,
Oft has he fought my door,
To beg his dole, a crumb of bread,
Or hopp'd upon the floor.

Some fragments then I wont to give,
His cravings to ſupply—
Thoſe wants which all things feel that live:
'Twas next to charity.

And thus my care with ſongs he pays;
'Tis all his nature can;
And thus he merits well my praiſe,
And ſhames ungrateful man.

Hanſlope. RUSTICUS.

The PARACHUTE.

DRAW near, I pray, nor what I ſing
To aught amiſs impute;
'Tis of a moſt ingenious thing,
Yclept a parachute;
Kindly brought over late from France,
In faſhion whilſt we ſprawl,
To teach us, in life's giddy dance
To guard againſt a fall.

From France are all our faſhions brought,
And 'tis but fair to note,
That thoſe who have the poiſon taught
Should teach the antidote.
And leſt in fancy's air balloon
We for aſſiſtance call,
'Twas kind from the influence of the moon
To guard us 'gainſt a fall.

Let them our faſhions then correct,
As far as follies reach;
But let them nothing elſe expect
To Engliſhmen to teach:
Nor fondly think they can diſpute
With us fair freedom's ball;
Our union's the true parachute
To guard againſt a fall.

How

How to be cautious in this sort,
We need not to be bid;
And yet we kindly thank them for't,
As much as if we did:
For disaffection long time now,
Thank Heaven has ceas'd to bawl;
Experience well has taught us how
To guard against a fall.

Then fellow-subjects, neighbours, friends,
United be and true,
So shall you ne'er the private ends
Of the world's empire rue:
So, by no foreign arts ensnar'd,
Your freedom to enthral,
Shall good old England be prepar'd
To guard against a fall.

Reflections of a Traveller, written at an Inn, on passing through the Town of Chelmsford, and unexpectedly beholding the Prison, before which stood three unhappy Men for immediate Execution, viz. two Soldiers for Highway Robbery, and a Labourer for Theft.

THE gaol arrests the traveller's sight,
As he the town pass'd thro;
A dreadful scaffold hung in black,
The prisoners all in view!

Horror sat on each dismal face
With a dejected air;
A pious priest devoutly stood
T' assist in holy pray'r.

Tears started from the traveller's eyes,
The shocking sight to see—
The traveller's mind, O God! was bless'd
With sweet humanity!

Not so the giddy, thoughtless crowd,
With them no tears were found,
But wanton oaths and vulgar jokes
Pass'd frequently around.

Sharp sorrow seiz'd the traveller's breast,
No longer could he stay,
He onwards urg'd his nimble steed,
And pensive went his way!

Ye rulers, that stern justice prize,
Laws rigid and severe,
Pity the traveller's tender heart,
Forgive the falling tear!

Rotherhithe, May 16, 1800.

B.

COMMERCE.

IN Britain's dear and happy land
The splendid throne of commerce rose;
She rais'd to Heav'n her pious hand
To bless the favour'd isle she chose:

Gaz'd on the richly loaded main,
Then on our fields exulting smil'd;
When on her ear a plaintive strain
Slow rose from Afric's captive child.

Her bright eye dropt indignant tears,
Her lately glowing cheek grew wan,
Ah! still she cried—"My name ap-
"pears
"Degraded by the wrongs of man."

For this I see deep blushes stain
Britannia's cheek, and ere they blow,
The glorious wreaths her children gain
Grow pale, and wither on her brow.

H. W.

The COLUMN *&the* PEDESTAL.

A Haughty column, looking down,
Glanc'd on its basis with a frown;
Think not to equal me, he cried,
Whose towering head the vapours hide.
Too happy thou to bear this weight,
Still join'd with me in future fate.
Stop, cried the pedestal, awhile,
At sounds like these sure man would smile—
How ill these haughty words agree,
Between what I support and me;
This base destroy'd, you'd soon be found
Laid prostrate on your parent ground.
Know, too, by fortune rais'd so high,
Long must your form in ruin lie,
Ere mine from time shall feel one shock,
Fix'd firm in nature's solid rock.
Thus spake the stone, as bards rehearse,
Nor ask what means the mystic verse;
No formal moral it can need,
So plainly mark'd, who runs may read.

E.

EPIGRAM *on a* MISER.

A Mouse a miser in his mansion spied,
And straight, "What dost thou, vil-
"lain here?" he cried.
The mouse rejoin'd, "To come no
"food inclin'd me;
"But here methought no cat would
"think to find me!"